

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:) Confirmation No.: 1310
Koichiro TANAKA et al.) Examiner: Bradley Smith
Serial No. 10/579,239) Group Art Unit: 2894
Filed: May 12, 2006)
For: SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE AND)
MANUFACTURING METHOD OF)
THE SAME)

RESPONSE

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

The Official Action mailed August 3, 2009, has been received and its contents carefully noted. This response is filed within three months of the mailing date of the Official Action and therefore is believed to be timely without extension of time. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on May 12, 2006, and July 9, 2008.

Claims 1-4, 6, 7 and 11-15 are pending in the present application, of which claims 1 and 2 are independent. For the reasons set forth in detail below, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Official Action rejects claims 1, 3, 4, 6 and 13 as obvious based on the combination of U.S. Patent No. 6,559,015 to Yu, JP 2001-308344 to Yamazaki, U.S. Publication No. 2003/0085720 to Yamazaki, International Publication No. WO 03/099508 to Sugioka and U.S. Publication No. 2006/0091122 to Sugioka, which is relied upon as a translation of Sugioka '508. The Official Action rejects claims 2-4, 6, 14 and 15 as obvious based on the combination of Yu, U.S. Publication No. 2003/0227056